IN THE CLAIMS:

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus ~~in which on~~ having n (n>2) photosensitive drums or belts ~~of n (n≥2) pieces~~ corresponding to respective colors ~~are formed~~ on which respective latent images are formed by irradiation of laser beams, comprising~~,~~:

a semiconductor laser array ~~of which~~ having laser beam emitting points ~~are~~ arranged m (m≥2) in the row direction thereof and n in the line direction thereof, ~~as~~ where n equals the ~~same~~ number of ~~the~~ photosensitive drums or belts;

a beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that m laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the semiconductor laser array scan ~~a~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt ~~among thereof~~; and

a beam deflection means which deflects in common n laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line emitted from the semiconductor laser array and irradiates the same onto the respective photosensitive drums or belts~~,~~;

wherein, the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated onto one of the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by an angle $\alpha 2$ with respect to the main scanning direction.

2. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus ~~in which on~~ having n (n>2) photosensitive drums or belts ~~of n (n≧2) pieces~~ corresponding to respective colors ~~are formed~~ on which respective latent images are formed by irradiation of laser beams, comprising~~,~~:

a first semiconductor laser array and a second semiconductor laser array, each of which has laser beam emitting points are arranged m (m≧2) in the row direction thereof and n/2 in the line direction thereof, ~~as the~~ where n/2 is half the number of ~~the~~ photosensitive drums or belts;

a first beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that m laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the first semiconductor laser array scan ~~a~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt ~~among thereof~~;

a second beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that m laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the second semiconductor laser array scan ~~a~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt ~~among thereof~~; and

a beam deflection means which deflects at different faces thereof n laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line emitted from the first semiconductor laser array and the second semiconductor laser array, and irradiates the same onto the respective photosensitive drums or belts~~,~~;

wherein, the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated onto one of the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by an angle $\alpha 2$ with respect to the main

scanning direction.

3. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus ~~in which on~~ having n(n>2) photosensitive drums or belts ~~of n (n≥2) pieces~~ corresponding to respective colors ~~are formed~~ on which respective latent images are formed by irradiation of laser beams, comprising~~,~~:

a semiconductor laser array ~~of which~~ having laser beam emitting points ~~are~~ arranged m (m≥2) in the row direction thereof and n/2 in the line direction thereof, ~~as the~~ where n/2 is half the number of ~~the~~ photosensitive drums or belts;

a beam splitting means which splits the respective laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line on the semiconductor laser array so that m laser beams emitted from one of the rows on the semiconductor laser array scan ~~a~~ the same photosensitive drum or belt ~~among thereof~~; and

a beam deflection means which deflects in common n/2 laser beams for every ~~lines~~ line emitted from the semiconductor laser array and irradiates the same onto the respective photosensitive drums or belts~~,~~;

wherein, the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated onto one of the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by an angle $\alpha 2$ with respect to the main scanning direction.

4. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the semiconductor laser array ~~being~~ is inclined as a whole by an angle $\alpha 1$, so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the

photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle $\alpha 2$ ($\alpha 1=\alpha 2$) with respect to the main scanning direction.

5. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the semiconductor laser array ~~being~~ is inclined as a whole by an angle $\alpha 1$, so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle $\alpha 2$ ($\alpha 1=\alpha 2$) with respect to the main scanning direction.

6. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the semiconductor laser array ~~being~~ is inclined as a whole by an angle $\alpha 1$, so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle $\alpha 2$ ($\alpha 1=\alpha 2$) with respect to the main scanning direction.

7. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the alignment in the row direction of the light emitting points ~~being~~ is inclined with respect to the alignment in the line direction by an angle ($90°- \alpha 3$), so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle $\alpha 2$ ($90°-\alpha 3=\alpha 2$) with respect to the main scanning direction.

8. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to

claim 2, wherein the alignment in the row direction of the light emitting points ~~being~~ is inclined with respect to the alignment in the line direction by an angle (90°- $\alpha 3$), so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle $\alpha 2$ (90°-$\alpha 3$=$\alpha 2$) with respect to the main scanning direction.

9. (currently amended) A color image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the alignment in the row direction of the light emitting points ~~being~~ is inclined with respect to the alignment in the line direction by an angle (90°- $\alpha 3$), so that the arrangement direction of m beam spots irradiated on the photosensitive drums or belts is inclined by the angle $\alpha 2$ (90°-$\alpha 3$=$\alpha 2$) with respect to the main scanning direction.